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REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2003, in the present application. Claims 1-16 and 41-47 were previously in the application (claims 17-40 having been previously withdrawn). In the Office Action, claims 1-16 and 41-47 were rejected. By the present Amendment, applicants have cancelled claims 41-43, without prejudice, and amended claims 13, 16 and 46. Accordingly, claims 1-16 and 44-47 are presently in the application. Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 are independent.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 41-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,767,792 to Urbas, et al. ("Urbas").

By the present Amendment, claims 41-43 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to those claims have been obviated, and applicants respectfully request the rejections to those claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Urbas be withdrawn.

Urbas (which shares inventors with, and has the same assignee as, the present application) discloses a transponder and interrogator system wherein the transponder includes an antenna for receiving an input signal to power the transponder, the signal also containing data and commands from the signal source and being also capable of transmitting an output signal to

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the interrogator. The transponder also includes memory for storing data received by the transponder from the signal source, the transponder operating in either a READ mode for outputting information from the transponder to the signal source, or in a PROGRAMMING mode wherein the memory stores data in response to information contained in the input signal. Urbas discloses that the memory may be an EEPROM 25, and that the OUTPUT ENABLE produced by data sequence generator 26 may go high, permitting EEPROM 25 to output its data, and that the OUTPUT ENABLE goes low, it tri-states the output of EEPROM 25 so as not to conflict with data from buffer 9 and/or multiplexor 9A on data bus 30. See Urbas at FIG. 1 and col. 7, lns. 57-60. The transponder also includes an integrity circuit for indicating to the signal source that sufficient power is available from the signal source for causing the memory to store the data.

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a transponder comprising, *inter alia*, a data module for receiving the data stored in the memory at an address indicated by the address module, the clock generator stopping supplying the read signal to turn off the current to the memory once the data has been output to the data module.

Applicants respectfully submit that Urbas does not disclose all of the features as recited by claim 1 of the present application. Specifically, claim 1 of the present invention recites the clock generator stopping supplying the read signal to turn off the current to the memory once the data has been output to the data module.

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In stark contrast, Urbas discloses tri-stating the data <u>output</u> of EEPROM 25 so as not to
conflict with data from buffer 9 and/or multiplexor 9A on data bus 30. Generally, as is known
by those skilled in the art, when an output is "tri stated," it is set to a high-impedance condition.
This allows other outputs to drive signals onto the shared data bus 30 without conflicting data
outputs. The tri-stating of the output of the EEPROM of Urbas is very different from the
stopping of current to the memory as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Urbas does not disclose all of the
features as recited by claim 1 of the present application. Accordingly, applicants request that the
Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 2-4, 6, 11, 44 and 45 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.
Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to the
rejection of claim 1, claims 2-4, 6, 11, 44 and 45 are allowable, at least for depending from
allowable claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the
rejections to claims 2-4, 6, 11, 44 and 45 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 7 of the present application claims a transponder similar to that claimed by claim
1, discussed above, of the present application. Specifically, claim 7 claims, *inter alia*, a
transponder including a clock generator stopping supplying current to the memory once the data
in the data module has been stored in the memory. As stated above in the discussion of the
rejection to claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that Urbas does not disclose a clock generator

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stopping supplying current to the memory once the data in the data module has been stored in the memory.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Urbas does not disclose all of the features as recited by claim 7 of the present application. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 8 and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 7, claims 8 and 10 are allowable, at least for depending from allowable claim 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 8 and 10 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

By the present Amendment, claim 13 has been amended to recite a similar feature to that discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 7. Specifically, claim 13 has been amended to claim, *inter alia*, a data module for receiving the data stored in the memory at an address indicated by the address module, the clock generator stopping supplying the read signal to turn off the current to the memory once the data has been output to the data module. As stated above in the discussion of the rejections to claims 1 and 7, applicants respectfully submit that Urbas does not disclose a clock generator stopping supplying current to the memory once the data in the data module has been stored in the memory.

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Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Urbas does not disclose all of the features as recited by claim 13, as amended, of the present application. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 15 depends from claim 13. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 7 and 13, claim 15 is allowable, at least for depending from allowable claim 13. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 15 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

By the present Amendment, claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to the rejection of claim 1, claim 16 is allowable, at least for depending from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 16 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In the Office Action, claims 5, 9, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on a hypothetical proposed combination of Urbas, and U.S. Patent No. 5,767,792 to Carroll et al. ("Carroll")

Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection. In the first instance, there is no teaching or suggestion in the references to make the hypothetical combination proposed in the Office Action, and thus the combination is improper.

Dependent claims 5 and 12 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 while, dependent claim 9 depends from claim 7, and dependent claim 14 depends from claim 13.

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Claims 8 and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 7, claims 8 and 10 are allowable, at least for depending from allowable claim 7. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 8 and 10 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Furthermore, Carroll fails to cure that deficiency. Carroll discloses a passive FR transponder and interrogator, wherein the interrogator and the transponder communicate via phase shift keying (PSK) modulation. Carroll does not describe, as part of a transponder, the advantageous feature of a clock generator stopping supplying current to the memory once the data in the data module has been stored in the memory.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the invention recited by claims 5, 9, 12 and 14 is not rendered obvious by the proposed hypothetical combination of Urbas and Carroll. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the invention recited by claims 5, 9, 12 and 14 is patentable over the proposed hypothetical combination of Urbas and Carroll and respectfully requests that the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,701,121 to Murdoch ("Murdoch").

By the present Amendment, claims 41 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to those claims have been

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obviated, and applicants respectfully request the rejections to those claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Murdoch be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on a hypothetical proposed combination of Urbas, Carroll and U.S. Patent No. 5,978,192 to Young et al. ("Young").

Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection. In the first instance, there is no teaching or suggestion in the references to make the hypothetical combination proposed in the Office Action, and thus the combination is improper.

By the present Amendment, claim 46 has been amended to depend from claim 1. accordingly, claims 44-47 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to the rejection of claim 1, claims 44-47 are allowable over Urbas, at least for depending from allowable claim 1.

Furthermore, Carroll fails to cure that deficiency. As discussed above, Carroll discloses a passive FR transponder and interrogator, wherein the interrogator and the transponder communicate via phase shift keying (PSK) modulation. Carroll does not describe, as part of a transponder, the advantageous feature of a clock generator stopping supplying current to the memory once the data in the data module has been stored in the memory.

Moreover, Young further fails to cure the deficiency. Young discloses Schmitt trigger-configured ESD protection circuit to facilitate the protection of electronic circuits from electrical

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surges. Young does not describe, as part of a transponder, the advantageous feature of a clock generator stopping supplying current to the memory once the data in the data module has been stored in the memory.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the invention recited by claims 44-47 is not rendered obvious by the proposed hypothetical combination of Urbas, Carroll and Young. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the invention recited by claims 44-47 is patentable over the proposed hypothetical combination of Urbas, Carroll and Young and respectfully request that those rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Accordingly, applicants submit that all of the claims in the application (i.e., 1-16 and 44-47) are in condition for allowance.

Any fees or charges required at this time and in connection with the present application may be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.
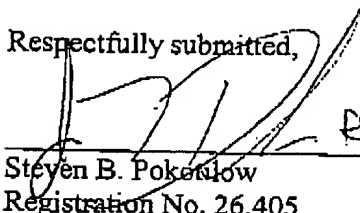
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        Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment, and early and favorable action

in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

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